



Christmas in the Year of Our Lord 2018

The Holy Season of Christmas calls upon us to focus more fully and reflect on the blessings God has bestowed upon us. His Son, Jesus, His greatest gift to us, brought light to a darkened and waiting world. When we open our hearts to others we become the presence of Jesus to them, reflecting his love by loving them as he loved us.

“Rejoice in the Lord always” . . . Phil. 4:4

Reflecting on the Year 2018, we rejoice and give thanks to God for the blessings we have received. Our dedicated volunteers, Board members and loyal supporters give unselfishly of their time, talents and resources to make Birthright available to those in need. When we needed help ourselves, you rose to the occasion to lighten our burden. A simple “thank you” just does not seem adequate, but it is wholeheartedly given. Your care and concern for distressed parents and their babies is the motivation that keeps Birthright’s spirit alive.

When Louise Summerhill was formulating the idea of Birthright in her heart and mind, she sought advice from those around her, most especially her spiritual director who encouraged her and told her, *“If one life is saved, and just one girl helped from abortion, all will be worthwhile.”* These women God sends us to love, help and guide so that they may bring into the world the precious baby God has created within them.

The story to the right is of a recent client of ours. We firmly believe it was the hand of God who directed her to us. There was much more to her story but, because of privacy, must remain untold. The events which occurred and the way they fell into place can only be explained as Divine Providence. There are no coincidences. The spirit of God was working, there is no doubt.

Emily’s Journey . . .*

I was in the office on a Tuesday morning working on organizing our office following our move the week before. Tuesday is a day we are normally closed but when the telephone rang, I picked it up. It was a client. The woman was very weepy and unable to talk. I patiently waited and after about ten minutes she said, “I can’t keep her.” At that point I wasn’t sure if she was pregnant or had already had the baby and was looking for adoption information.

She asked, “How far along would Planned Parenthood do abortions?” She stated, “I’m 38 ½ weeks.” After more conversation she explained that the father of the baby was abusive but had stopped hitting her because he thought the baby was a boy, but now that delivery was coming up soon she was very worried for her safety and the baby’s.

During the course of the conversation I realized she was in labor. I offered to pick her up but she refused to allow me to come to her home and take her to the hospital. She did have access to a car and said she would drive herself. She promised to stay on the phone with me using hands free phone in the car, and to pull over when she was having a contraction. She arrived at the hospital at about 12:35 p.m. and asked if she could call me back after being taken to Labor and Delivery via wheelchair.

“Emily” called me back about 1:00 p.m. and we stayed on the phone with each other until the baby girl was delivered at 3:45. All during her labor I kept reassuring her on how well she was doing. At about 4:00 I gave her my cell phone number to call me again if she needed to talk.

“Emily” called me later that evening about 7:30 and said she had talked with a former high school friend who would come to the hospital and take her back to her family home in another state. Her friend, who was also from another state, happened to be in New England visiting relatives when the call came and left immediately to be at her side.

I later asked how she came to get Birthright’s telephone number. She stated that she did a Google search and put in “Planned Parenthood abortion” and the number of our Birthright office came up. In fact when I first answered the phone with my usual greeting of “Good morning this is Birthright” she hung up because she was confused, but within a minute she called back and our journey together began.

Barb Miller

**Client’s name was changed to protect her identity.*

*Our very best wishes to you for a
Joyful Christmas Season and Happy New Year!*

